

July 10, 2002

Mr. Thomas A. Scully
Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Mail Stop C5-22-23
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Mr. Scully:

The Department of Human Services is designated by the Governor of Rhode Island as the State agency responsible for Rhode Island's Medicaid program. The Department was directed by a Governor's budget initiative to enroll children with special health care needs into RIte Care, Rhode Island's Medicaid managed care program.

The State of Rhode Island seeks to amend its current section 1115 waiver for RIte Care to include children enrolled in Medicaid due to eligibility through SSI, the Katie Beckett Provision or subsidized adoptive agreements ("children with special health care needs"). The Department wishes to enroll into RIte Care children who do not have commercial or other insurance coverage in addition to Medicaid. The coverage purchased will be the Medicaid benefit package, as set forth under the State's approved Section 1115 waiver for RIte Care. We intend to build upon our demonstrated successes with RIte Care by providing a managed care delivery system to children with special health care needs.

The Department of Human Services has determined that timely and effective implementation of the Governor's budget initiative requires an amendment of the current Title XIX 1115 RIte Care waiver to allow the enrollment of children eligible for Medicaid due to SSI, the Katie Beckett Provision and subsidized adoptions, when these children are not covered by another form of health insurance in addition to Medicaid.

We request that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services expedite approval of this waiver request so that the State of Rhode Island may proceed with its operational planning and implementation of this initiative.

We hope that CMS will assist Rhode Island in its effort to improve access to care and health outcomes for its residents. We look forward to working with CMS on this and future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Jane A. Hayward
Director

cc: Tricia Leddy
John Young
Ronald Preston
Richard Pecorella
Alyssa Adamo